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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks which follow.

DISPOSITION OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 20, 25-30, and 33-40 are pending in this application. Claims 22-24, 31, and 32 have been cancelled in this reply. Claims 20, 25, 28, 33, and 39 have been amended as set forth above. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 20 and 22-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,382). Claims 22-24, 31, and 32 have been cancelled. Accordingly, rejection of claims 22-24, 31, and 32 is moot. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 20, 25-30, and 33-40 is respectfully requested.

Jenner et al. do not disclose or teach aligning and securing one or more optical elements to bases using one or more first flexible gripping element having the characteristics recited in amended claim 20 and securing and passively aligning one or more of the bases to a substrate using one or more second flexible gripping elements having the characteristics recited in amended claim 20. Therefore, claim 20 is patentable over Jenner et al. Claims 25-27, being dependent from claim 20, are likewise patentable over Jenner et al. in view of the foregoing arguments. For the same reason that claim 20 is patentable over Jenner et al., claims 28-30 and 33-40 are also patentable over Jenner et al. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20, 25-30, and 33-40 over Jenner et al. is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that this paper is fully responsive to the Office Action dated December 28, 2005, and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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